



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

March 20, 2007

The Honorable Adam Schiff
326 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mary Bono
104 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Schiff and Ms. Bono,

Thank you for your bipartisan leadership in introducing comprehensive gang legislation. I support your legislation, The Gang Abatement and Prevention Act of 2007, and appreciate that it would establish new crimes and tougher federal penalties to deter and punish members of illegal street gangs. I also strongly support the federal funding authorized in your bill for suppression, prevention and intervention programs.

Gang violence is a problem in communities all over California. We need to have a coordinated approach among federal, state and local governments to work together and eliminate this problem. I support the provisions in your bill that would create new High Intensity Interstate Gang Activity Areas, enhance existing federal efforts such as Project Safe Neighborhood and Safe Streets, and expand grants to states and local agencies and to community groups.

Fighting gangs in California will require various strategies including suppression, intervention and prevention. All of these efforts will require additional funds. I urge Congress to provide additional funding in Fiscal Year 2008 to build on federal anti-gang efforts, and to provide grants to state and local agencies to combat gangs and gang violence.

I appreciate your continued support for states and local communities in their fight against gangs.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger